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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 30, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ELLEN O. TAUSCHER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Sustain in Your people, Lord, the song of Your freedom. Let the new life of spring touch the soul of this Nation and strengthen the arm of Congress, that renewed in spirit we may build a mighty defense against all evil forces and any disease which seeks to weaken the health of Your people.

Unite our resources in every effort to confront what is destructive, and at the same time, make us creative to face the issues of a new day, that we may give You glory in the sight of the nations both now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. HALL)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HALL of New York led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT

(Mr. HALL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights. It's about time that we passed legislation to protect consumers from the abusive practices of credit card companies. Consumers have paid the price for a lack of regulation with excessive fees, sky-high interest rates and unfair, incomprehensible agreements that credit card companies revise at will.

The Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights will end these practices, leveling the playing field for people who play by the rules. It requires credit card companies to give cardholders advance notice of an interest rate hike; it ends tricks and traps that make cardholders incur rate hikes and unreasonable fees, and it shields cardholders from misleading terms while protecting vulnerable consumers from fee-heavy subprime cards.

Today's Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights will help families and small businesses in the Hudson Valley and across the Nation. I urge its passage.

THE FIRST 100 DAYS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, yesterday marked President Obama's 100th day in office. In that short time, the Obama administration has managed to launch a war on critical pro-life and pro-family policies. As a result, foreign organizations that promote and perform abortions are eligible for U.S. taxpayer family planning money that has been increased to \$545 million a year this year.

Life-destroying research will be eligible for more taxpayer dollars. Medical professionals' rights to practice according to their consciences will be under threat. Foreign organizations will be allowed to receive Federal tax dollars despite support for coercive abortion policies like forced abortion, forced sterilization, and the UNFPA in China. Contentious organizations like Planned Parenthood will be granted massive amounts of hardworking American tax dollars.

Such actions certainly contradict the President's pledge to find common ground with pro-life Americans. As the old adage goes, "Actions speak louder than words." Yesterday was a sad day for America's unborn and for those who would like to protect them.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, enough is enough. Today, I rise to add my appreciation to Carolyn Maloney and to all of those who finally got it all in place to be able to say "no" to the credit card abuses that have been abusing Americans on a constant basis.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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